

## *A Message from the President*

### **FELLOW PHYSICIAN:**

California physicians have led the nation in most areas of medicine, particularly in the field of continuing medical education. In response to the public's increasing concern for and interest in high-quality health care and in answer to the Legislature's cry that physicians should be subject to mandatory licensure controls, the California Medical Association inaugurated a voluntary program for the reporting of continuing medical education. CMA's Committee on Continuing Medical Education hopes that the program also acts as an impetus to physicians who might not otherwise pursue their personal educational needs.

More than 3,000,000 hours of continuing medical education efforts have been officially documented by 10,000 California physicians. This program meets all the continuing education requirements of the AMA and the mandatory requirements of the California Academy of Family Physicians and the California Society of Anesthesiologists. You need only fill out one form. (Forms were mailed to all California physicians during September.) The information is recorded, computerized and provided to your hospital, specialty society, or AMA, upon your request. A certificate suitable for framing is issued upon completion of 200 hours in a three-year period.

Each of us spends untold hours reading journals, attending rounds, listening to medical lecture tapes (such as Audio-Digest), going to specialty meetings, attending CMA scientific sessions, and the like. Our patients and our lawmakers have a right to know that their physicians are well-trained and up-to-date on medical advances. We have an obligation not only to keep ourselves informed but also to assure others of the competence within our profession. By accepting this responsibility voluntarily, we hope to convince society that there is no need for mandatory periodic reexamination and relicensure, or for undue controls placed on California physicians by "outside" agencies.

I hope you will take a few minutes to record your activities and support our efforts in continuing medical education.

THOMAS ELMENDORF, MD  
*President*  
*California Medical Association*